

AIS Users Forum

**Western Kentucky Technical College, Crounse Hall, Room 101,
4810 Alben Barkley Drive, Paducah Kentucky**

When: Tuesday, July 29, 2014, 2-4 pm

The U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are exploring ways to take advantage of recent technologies to enhance the delivery of information that will improve the level of safety and efficiency of transits on the Nation's waterways. The three agencies have conducted listening sessions throughout the country to discuss and gather information on waterway users' needs. The listening sessions have allowed the agencies to learn about waterway users' technology practices, capabilities, and preferences.

Customer input from the listening sessions has been used by the U.S. Coast Guard Research and Development Center (RDC) to develop a plan for a one-year demonstration project to distribute electronic navigation (e-Nav) information to along a reach of the Lower Ohio River and adjacent reaches of the Mississippi River upstream and downstream from Cairo. The RDC will take advantage of enhancements to the Automatic Identification System (AIS) technology to distribute the information. A group of volunteer towboats will be configured to receive and display information transmitted over AIS. The RDC and USACE will transmit navigation information. The RDC and its contractor, Alion Science and Technology, will work with a group of operators during the demonstration to gain practical experience on distributing e-Nav information via AIS and other means and to learn what benefit system users have gained from the service. The RDC's goal is to provide the agencies along the river with a path forward for this technology to augment and enhance existing navigation services.

The objective of this meeting is to inform local operators along the Ohio River about the planned e-Nav demonstration, specifically:

- Overview of the technologies to be used for the Demonstration
- USCG-USACE-NOAA goals for the demonstration
- The information we plan to distribute via AIS
- Geographic scope and timetable for the demonstration
- Describe how selected vessels would view the information

As part of this meeting, we want to begin to identify vessel pilots, towboat companies, and vessels that would participate in the demonstration. A representative from the RDC's contractor, Alion, will discuss the planned demonstration, what navigation information will be transmitted, vessel installation, how the demonstration will occur from the pilot's point of view, and how pilots' feedback will be collected.

Speaker	Agency	Topic
CWO4 Dave Lewald	USCG	The Coast Guard's missions in the western Rivers, and the potential improvements we see from taking advantage of eAtoN and eMSI technology
Mr. Brian Tetreault	USACE	The Army Corps mission, and the potential uses for AIS data transmission to improve lock management and navigation information for mariners, using the USACE Lock Operation Management Application (LOMA) and River Information Services
Mr. Barry Vessels	USACE	Potential Inland Electronic Navigation Chart (IENC) information
Mr. Chris Turner	USCG RDC	The R&D Center's mission to identify and test new technology, and an overview of the demonstration project. Introduce the Alion team, and Alion's role of planning and executing the Ohio River demonstration.
Mr. Greg Johnson	Alion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Details on the information and how it will be distributed.• Modifications that ECS manufacturers will make to test vessel ECS.• How the information will be received and displayed on vessel charting displays.• Steps involved in configuring vessels• How Alion will get feedback from pilots on the system and the value of the information.
Mr. Greg Johnson	Alion	Discussion, question and answer period with pilots.

If you plan to attend, need more information, or are unable to attend and want to make any AIS recommendations, call Alivia Grate at 860-326-3460, or e-mail agrate@alionscience.com.